

1974 I made a thorough survey to locate all the ringed Myna at different regions of Santiniketan in seven different days spending a total of 6 hours (Average) daily. This resulted in observation of the individual ringed pairs feeding, roosting and performing other function together during most of the time. During the nesting season of 1973 Pair No. 2, 8, 35 & 40 acquired old territories and others established new territories as usual. The return to the old territory was presumably a chance affair.

Careful observation on the un-ringed Myna population also clearly showed the continuance of the pair bond beyond the breeding season. As one could find the Common Myna feeding, moving, returning to the roost in two throughout the year.

It was also interesting to mention that Pair No. 8 continued occupying and defending its breeding territory through the winter of 1973 and was doing the same till the writing of this note. This pair fed mostly in and around its territory. But none of the other ringed Mynas occupied territory beyond the breeding season though they maintained the pair bond throughout the year.

Therefore it could be concluded from the present investigation that the pair bond in the Common Myna extends for several years (may be for life) and there is possibility of other birds of this family doing the same.

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October 9, 1974.

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13. OCCURRENCE OF BANK MYNA *ACRIDOTHERES GINGINIANUS* (LATHAM) IN VISAKHAPATNAM (A.P.)

A small group of Bank mynas were seen feeding among the *Tephrosia* undergrowth near Lawsons bay colony in Visakhapatnam on 20th February, 1974.

Again on 29th August, 1974, I saw them more or less in the same area and Mr. K. S. R. Krishna Raju confirmed their identity.

The SYNOPSIS (1961) mentions that it wanders as far south as Madras and the HANDBOOK (5:181) records a report of a lone specimen from Madras, adding that the bird might perhaps be a cage bird. In the absence of any published date on its occurrence in Andhra this record adds Northern Andhra to its known range of distribution.

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14. CURIOUS BEHAVIOUR OF A LOTEN'S SUNBIRD (*NECTARINIA LOTENIA*)

Early in the morning on 26 February, 1974, two or more nestlings of the Tailor Bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) had left their nest in a small plant at the foot of a wall in the large open plot just north of our house in Trivandrum, Kerala State.

At 1115 hours, my wife, who combines her bird watching with her outdoor household jobs, noted a family of Tailor Birds on a small tamarind tree in our backyard and summoned me. There was one juvenile only and the parents were hopping about around it in some excitement and uttering an incessant *chit-chit-chit-tit-tit-tit* note.

Just then a male Loten's Sunbird in eclipse plumage came and began probing the juvenile Tailor Bird's vent with its long bill. The chick responded by begging for food. The sunbird not only pecked at and prodded the cloaca of the Tailor chick, but quite frequently pulled the latter's almost invisible stub-tail. At times the sunbird took hold of the chick's short primaries one at a time and tugged so hard that the chick had a hard time of retaining its hold on the perch. Strangely enough, the parents who were close by made no move to drive the sunbird away. Only when the sunbird withdrew some distance from the chick would one or the other parent Tailor fly at the sunbird.

The parents appeared to be trying to lead the chick to a more sheltered place. Our presence could also have had something to do with the reluctance of the parent birds to go too near their chick.

The harassed juvenile tried to escape the attentions of the sunbird by fluttering from one twig to another, but the sunbird was most persistent and as soon as the chick had settled down on a perch started probing, prodding and pecking again!

The Tailor Bird family sought refuge in a thickly foliated *Cassia fistula* which was a few yards away from the tamarind tree. Still the sunbird followed and began its antics again. Just then we noted an adult